

NEWS AND VIEWS From The CAPITAL OF ARIZONA

(Issued by Arizona News Bureau)

Petitions are being circulated throughout the state asking the legislature to give a reasonable time for the closing of saloons and the adjustment of all business affairs which will be affected by their closing. It is asserted that the legislature can thus avoid a great deal of unnecessary disturbance of economic conditions. The petitions were started by commercial interests, and it is claimed that they are being signed by many prohibitionists.

In circulating these petitions, it is assumed that the "dry" amendment approved by a majority of the voters November 3 is not self-operating, and therefore does not go into effect January 1. One section of the amendment says that it shall become effective the first day of January, 1915, but another section says that the legislature, which does not meet till January 11, shall enact laws to carry it into effect. The federal court will be asked to interpret the amendment.

Another feature of the situation is that while the amendment fixes the penalty for violators of its provisions, it does not provide for the imposition of that penalty by any court. A violation constitutes a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment or by a fine of not less than \$50 and costs. Under the constitution, justice courts have jurisdiction only in cases where the entire fine assessed is not over \$300. Nothing in the amendment, it is claimed, gives authority for taking violators into the superior courts.

Once more Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall and Mrs. Marshall will spend the Christmas holidays at Scottsdale, eleven miles northeast of Phoenix. They will leave Washington immediately upon the adjournment of congress and come to Arizona without even a stop at their home in Indianapolis. The Marshalls have spent portions of their winters for several years at Scottsdale with Mrs. Marshall's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kimsey. Since their last visit a handsome winter home has been completed for them just across the main thoroughfare of the town from the Kimsey residence. Their home is now being furnished and will be ready for occupancy upon their arrival.



ARIZONA HOME OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The first withdrawal of land in Arizona under the provisions of the Carey act has been made. It is a temporary withdrawal and includes 20,000 acres of rich mesa and bottom land on the south side of the Gila river, near Palomas, in Yuma county. An eastern syndicate proposes to sink a series of connected pits in the bed of the river and pump water from them into the canal, which will convey it to the land. At that point the Gila has no surface water during a great part of the year, but there is always an abundant underground flow. The syndicate soon will have engineers drawing maps and making detailed plans. The plans and estimates will be submitted to the state land commission, which then will make an investigation on its own account. If the commission approves the project, the interior department will be asked to make the withdrawal permanent.

Arizona played a part in a Michigan sensation when Timothy J. O'Brien, president of the leading decorating company of Bay City, was restored to citizenship by Governor Hunt. A great many of O'Brien's closest friends and business associates learned for the first time that he was an escapee from the Arizona penitentiary. In March, 1896, O'Brien was convicted of highway robbery at Williams, Arizona, and sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary. He escaped in October, 1897, and after spending a few months in Mexico, went to his former home in Bay City. There he was located by the Arizona authorities and extradition proceedings were instituted, but for some reason were not pushed. O'Brien then became a common sailor on the Great Lakes, and in seven years' time rose to be the first mate of a freighter. He then resumed his trade of painting and paperhanging at Bay City, and rose rapidly in the business world. His petition asking for restoration to citizenship was signed by the congressman from the Bay City district and many other prominent citizens of Michigan. He signed an affidavit declaring himself innocent of the crime of which he was convicted.

Preparations are being made by the board of control to lease quarters in some Phoenix office building for several state officials now quartered on the third floor of the capitol, in legislative chambers and committee rooms. It will be necessary to move the school superintendent, registrar of vital statistics, game warden, mine inspector, inspector of weights and measures and state engineer before the legislature meets.

The Santa Fe Railroad company has withdrawn suits filed in the counties of Yavapai, Mohave, Coconino, Navajo and Apache, contesting the valuations placed for taxation purposes on the company's grant lands. The valuations range from 75 cents to \$3.50 an acre. Plans are being made by the state tax commission to classify the lands according to value and availability for agriculture or grazing.

With the end of year more than a month away, over 5100 1914 automobile licenses have been issued by the secretary of state, as against a total of 3098 for 1913. In 1913 435 motorcycle licenses were issued, and the number for 1914 is now little below 750.

Phoenix and Tucson are planning huge municipal Christmas trees on their city hall plazas. Thousands of dollars' worth of food and gifts will be distributed to the poor.

Arizona's Condemned Men

Unless present plans miscarry, Saturday, December nineteenth, will be a day long remembered in Arizona, for, between sunrise and sunset on that day ten men convicted of murder in the first degree will pay the penalty for their crimes on the gallows, says the last issue of Dumbart's Weekly.

By their ballots the voters of the baby state have decreed that the penalty for taking human life shall be death. The question of the abolition of capital punishment was voted upon by all the people of the state at the election held November 3rd, last, and by slight majority of twelve hundred votes, the death penalty was retained on the statutes.

Pending the settlement of the question of the death penalty, Governor George W. P. Hunt issued reprieves for all the men convicted of murder in Arizona the past three years. Fourteen reprieves in all were issued and ten of them expire on December 19th. Arizona's chief executive fondly

declares that he would resign rather than execute the murderers. Whether he will carry this declaration into effect remains to be seen. Sims is a personal friend of Governor Hunt and a firm believer in the executive's ideas of prison reform. It is believed that Hunt can prevail upon Sims to remain in charge of the prison, although it seems certain that the warden will detail some other prison official to spring the trap on the ten condemned men.

The names of the men to hang and a brief history of their crimes follows:

Miguel Peralta was tried and sentenced to death in the superior court of Yavapai county for having shot and killed Carmen Aros, his divorced wife and Juan Delgado, her lover. The double killing took place at Jerome. Peralta was sentenced to hang on October 11, 1912, but was reprieved until December 19, this year. Williams Campbell, a negro shot and killed Ernesti Presti in the town of Prescott after a street brawl in which Presti threatened to kill the negro at the first opportunity. Presti was an ex-prize fighter and was known as "Kid Kirby." Certain extenuating circumstances have developed in this case and Campbell is one of the men who stands a chance of receiving a commutation at the hands of governor Hunt. Campbell was sentenced to hang on July 28, 1911, but was reprieved until next month.

Francisco Rodriguez was sentenced to hang on January 19, 1913 for the murder of his wife, the killing taking place in Phoenix. The murder of Mrs. Rodriguez by her drunken husband was one of the most brutal and cold blooded ever recorded in the criminal annals of the state.

Charles Schaeffer was tried and convicted of the murder of Edward Siles, the shooting taking place in globe the early part of last year. Schaeffer was originally sentenced to hang on May 9, 1913, but was granted a reprieve until next month. There is a slight possibility that Schaeffer will be the recipient of executive clemency.

N. B. Chavez was given the death penalty for the murder of Charles King, a night officer in Jerome. The shooting of King was the result of the arrest of Chavez by the officer some time previous to the killing. Had the original sentence been carried out, Chavez would have been hanged on March 17, 1911. His reprieve granted by Governor Hunt extends to December 19, this year.

Eduardo Perez shot and killed a Mexican by the name of Felicio Chacon during a drunken brawl in the town of Prescott last year. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to hang on March 13, 1913. He will be one of the men hanged next month.

W. W. Kermeen was convicted of the murder of George Hausel in Bisbee the early part of the recent year. During the progress of his trial Kermeen testified on the stand that whenever he saw a person sleeping he had an almost irresistible impulse to slay. He shot Hausel while the latter was asleep and had no defense other than that of the mania to kill a sleeping person. His execution was set for October 9, this year, but was delayed until the 19th of December by executive action.

Altha M. Leonard and John Tomlin, two lads who have barely attained their majority, were sentenced in Phoenix to hang on May 22 of this year, but reprieved until next year by Governor Hunt. They were convicted of the murder of Marshal Hi Petersen of Mesa. According to the testimony at the trial the boys shot and killed Petersen when he attempted to arrest them for the theft of a bicycle.

Francisco Garcia shot and killed Night Officer Harris in Phoenix last year. Harris was attempting to arrest Garcia for breaking into a box car, when the Mexican opened fire. The original date set for the execution of Garcia was January 13, 1914, but he also was reprieved until December 19, this year.

TYRANTS WHO WIELDED RODS

Great Schoolmasters of Happily Departed Regime Thoroughly Believed in Flogging.

We do not remember any severe cases of flogging in the public schools of our little village on the Connecticut river—district, intermediate, grammar, high. "Hold out your hand!" and a ruler was brought down upon it; but we do not remember any instance of a sound whipping, Philip Hale writes in the Boston Herald. That was done by parents at home anxious to raise their young in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We remember a household in Northampton where a riding whip, a rawhide and a carriage whip were laid on a wretched boy according to the gravity of his offense. The use of the carriage whip, necessitating more dexterity in management, probably afforded the father more pleasure and certainly gave him more exercise. To chastise a child was in those days considered a solemn religious duty. There was the book of Proverbs with its admonitions, and in the sixties clergymen and members of the congregation believed that King Solomon wrote all the proverbs with his own hand except those explicitly attributed to Agur. He that doubted this or did not follow Solomon's advice was worse than an infidel. But we do not remember any Dr. Busby in our schools; Dr. Busby, who had flogged 16 bishops when they were his pupils—as bishops they no doubt still sat uneasily upon the bench—Dr. Busby, who, looking at his pupil, South, famous afterward as a divine, exclaimed: "I see great talents in that sulky boy, and I shall endeavor to flog them out." There was no Dr. Parr, who, as De Quincey said, had reigned in blood and banquets like Moloch upon children's cries. There was no Bowyer, the master at Christ's hospital, who "knouted his way through life, from bloody youth up to truculent old age," and with whom the words, "I'll flog you," were so familiar that when a female friend of one of the boys lingered at his door after having been told to go, Bowyer exclaimed: "Bring that woman here, and I'll flog her." Floggings with all of this great line of schoolmasters were "luxuries for the moment, and subjects of sweet consolation in the retrospect."

FOR SAVING LIFE AT SEA

Danish Inventor Seems to Have Something Which Has Merit Beyond All Others.

It is reported that a substitute for life boats, which has been recommended to several foreign governments, consists of a hollow steel globe, flattened on the bottom and about eight feet in diameter.

With 16 men inside and a supply of fresh water and provisions it is said that this globe draws less than two feet of water. A 12-inch ventilating pipe can be raised through the top of the globe when it is afloat. This pipe can, it is claimed, be drawn in and the opening quickly closed when desired. A small sail can be raised with the aid of the ventilating pipe.

The inventor of this device is a Dane. He states that he conceived the idea on seeing an iron water tank afloat after a terrible wreck in which several lives were lost.—Popular Electricity.

Not Really.

"Now, be careful, my man," said the lawyer, in an insinuating voice. "Was my client on the track?"

"He was," said the engine driver. "As I turned the bend of the curve I saw—"

"Sir," thundered the great man, "my client swears he tramped all the way through the wood by the side of the railway."

"But I swear he was on the track. How else did he get injured?" asked the engine driver, heatedly.

"Don't question me," roared the lawyer. "My client did not go on the rail, sir."

"Well, then," yelled the driver, "do you think I ran my engine into the wood after him?"

Java's Teak Forests.

Teak forests in Java cover 1,480,000 acres, and, as the area reforested is two and a half times as large as the area felled in a given time, this magnificent stock of timber is continually increasing. A pest of the Java teak plantation is a grass (Imperata arundinacea). In order to prevent the incursion of this plant, as hoeing is too expensive, the foresters sow a leguminous plant, Leucaena glauca, between the rows of teak seedlings. This chokes the along, keeps the soil clean and enriches the soil in humus and nitrogen, and ultimately disappears with the increase of the forest cover.

Chains of No Use.

It was a Welsh minister who described the devil to a little congregation in a remote Welsh valley. Said the minister:

"The devil is bound round the middle with chains, and round the arms with chains, and round the legs with chains. But, John Jones," pointing to a man in the front row, "he can reach you; and you, David Evans," pointing to one in the middle row, "he can reach you; and, pointing to one at the back, "John Williams, he can reach you." And then a man in the gallery called out: "Why, he might as well be loose."—Portland Sceptator.



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